

Regulator: Office for Students (OfS)

Business Impact Target reporting period covered: 13 December 2019 – 16 December 2020

Exclusion category	Summary of activity
<p>Measures certified as being below de minimis (measures with an equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) below +/- £5 million)</p>	<p>Regulatory notices</p> <p>In this period the OfS paused some regulatory requirements to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, adapting its approach to reduce unnecessary burden and to support providers as they worked to support and protect their students.</p> <p>New reporting requirements were introduced on reportable events and data in March 2020 under the general ongoing condition of registration F3: Provision of information to the OfS, and general ongoing condition of registration F4: Provision of information to the Designated Data Body, to provide the Specified Information at the Specified Time and in the Specified Manner. The notice was further updated in July 2020 setting out the approach to regulation and information about deadlines for data returns.</p> <p>Regulatory notice 1: Access and participation was amended in May 2020, with minor changes.</p> <p>Regulatory notice 5: Condition Z3 Temporary provisions for sector stability and integrity (July 2020) introduced a time-limited ongoing condition of registration imposed to protect the stability and integrity of the English higher education sector during the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic.</p> <p>Regulatory guidance</p> <p>The OfS published new guidance documents dealing with regulatory requirements during the pandemic, such as how the OfS will adapt its regulatory approach to support providers during this time on matters such as reportable events and the approach to quality and standards.</p>

Exclusion category	Summary of activity
	<p>Consultations</p> <p>Several consultations were paused in March 2020 to reduce the burden placed on providers during the outbreak of coronavirus. When the process of consultation resumed, key consultations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new student protection directions (July 2020) which outlined proposals for a new approach to enable the OfS to intervene more quickly and in a targeted way when the OfS considers that a provider is at material risk of leaving the higher education sector • the OfS's approach to regulating quality and standards in higher education (November 2020).
Casework	<p>The OfS website details its regulatory decisions.</p> <p>Notifications</p> <p>The OfS receives, assesses and, where appropriate, investigates notifications made about a provider that the OfS regulates, to ensure that they comply with the ongoing conditions of registration.</p>
Education, communications and promotion	<p>The OfS undertakes presentations, organises webinars and communicates on specific topics. Participation in these events is not mandatory.</p>
Activity related to policy development	<p>The OfS undertakes data analysis, and commissions and publishes independent research to inform decision making, and for transparency purposes.</p>